



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Kansas City District

# News Release

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## **Construction Begins on Soldier Creek Diversion Unit Repair**

TOPEKA, Kan.—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, in cooperation with the North Topeka Drainage District, initiated construction earlier this month on damaged sections of the Soldier Creek Diversion Unit located just north of Topeka. The diversion unit was completed in 1962 to reduce flood damage to businesses, infrastructure and residences in northern Topeka. It consists of 18 miles of earthen levee, nine miles of improved channel, and 35 drainage structures. The diversion unit was repaired twice since originally constructed; once in 1983 and again in 1994.

The contract was awarded to LaForge and Budd Construction Company, headquartered in Parsons, Kansas, to complete repairs valued at over \$9 million. Ebert Construction Company is the subcontractor performing the work to construct the Black and Veatch (Overland Park, KS) design. Funding is provided through the Federal Control and Coastal Emergencies program and construction is expected to last 10-12 months. The repairs use a design approach that incorporates “stable streambed” technology and adds sinuosity, pools, check dams, and riprap to the channel to reduce the erosive power of flood waters. Seth LaLiberty, the Corps’ project manager for the design, is happy to see the project enter the construction phase. “The Soldier Creek project is the result of several years of planning and significant effort from everyone involved. It’s amazing how much work must be done before we can start moving dirt, but it will all be worth it when the flood protection is restored.”

LaForge and Budd is mobilizing construction equipment to begin repairs of the channel. Some of the equipment is equipped with GPS devices to ensure the construction grades accurately match the design.

The repairs are visible from several area roads; however public access is restricted due to safety concerns present in the construction area.

The public is requested to direct questions to the Kansas City District’s Public Affairs officer, Davide Kolarik, at (816) 389-3486 or [david.s.kolarik@usace.army.mil](mailto:david.s.kolarik@usace.army.mil).